

SPEAKS FOR TOILERS

Distinguished Men Discuss Welfare of Labor Classes.

GOMPERS AND MITCHELL TALK

President of American Federation of Labor Asserts that the Laborer Must Not Be Treated as a Commodity—John Mitchell Advocates the Abolition of Child Labor.

What was probably the most significant meeting ever held in this city with a view to bettering the social conditions of the laboring classes of the United States, took place last night at the New Willard. The occasion was the final session of the first day's conference of the National Civic Federation, which is holding its welfare meeting.

Capital and labor, and the differences that have estranged them, were discussed optimistically by men prominent in official and social life.

The audience that greeted the speakers was in the highest sense representative not only of Washington, but of the nation—men and women of the highest social, administrative, judicial, and laboring circles. Hundreds were forced to stand, owing to the overflow attendance.

Mr. Gompers Presides.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, presided, and opened the meeting with a brief address, complimenting the organization under whose auspices the gathering was assembled.

He defined the principles upon which the labor organizations base their claim to a better conception of the rights of the employee from the employer.

"We are not pessimists," said he, "but our labor organizations protest against the conception that the laborer is a commodity to be bought in the open market. We believe in the progress by evolution, rather than by revolution."

Andrew Carnegie made what was probably the principal address of the evening. He paid a compliment to the women who have allied themselves to the federation, and said: "Nothing is complete in this world without the aid of woman. But I hope women shall not fall so low they shall want the rights of man."

Speaking of his personal observations of the workingman, the retired capitalist remarked: "You can do anything with the laboring man, but you have got to treat him like a man. You can trust a workingman. It is a point of honor between men not to take another's job, and the cause of all the trouble that has existed between capital and labor is they do not know each other. It is the lack of brotherhood between them."

Safety of the Country.

"It is my conviction that the safety and future of the country depend upon the elevation of the laboring classes."

John Mitchell, retired president of the United Mine Workers of America, voiced an urgent appeal to the women present to exert all efforts in putting an end to child labor.

"In your task to have legislation passed to prohibit this evil," said he, "you will meet with opposition not only from those who profit by the labor of children, but, unfortunately, you will in many cases be opposed by the parents of the children themselves."

"In this respect, as well as in many other reforms, your efforts can accomplish much. You can obtain for society better conditions of life than is possible for organized labor to accomplish."

Besides explaining the principles of the National Civic Federation, of which he is president, Seth Low embodied in his address the thought that while the task which they have set out to accomplish will be difficult to attain, it will be the means of making the United States the model country of the world.

That the education of the masses to the idea that the home is the original idea upon which the republic was founded, rather than blind patriotism, was the argument advanced by Mrs. Sarah S. Platt-Decker, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Standard of the Nation.

Oscar S. Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, brought out the point that the standard of the nation is not judged by the millionaires it produces, but by the hosts of laboring people it has educated and elevated to a higher plane of social improvement.

Commissioner Macfarland, S. Thurston Ballard, and Mrs. Eva McDonald Valet, also addressed the meeting.

At the opening session of the welfare in the parlors of the Willard, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, a woman's committee to co-operate with the National Civic Federation, was organized. A committee was appointed to elect officers and report at this morning's session, as follows:

Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, Washington; Mrs. John K. Otley, Atlanta; Mrs. William H. Crocker, San Francisco; Mrs. V. Evert Macy, New York; Mrs. Talcott Williams, Philadelphia; Mrs. J. B. Grant, Denver; Miss Anna D. Slocum, Boston; Mrs. B. Frank Metcalf, Spry, N. C.; and Mrs. Eva McDonald Valet, St. Paul.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the delegation was received by the President at the White House.

Wants a Model City.

The Chief Executive expressed his appreciation of the work of the organization, and said:

"I want you to help me, through your representative, to set that type of legislation enacted by the Congress of the United States government, a model employer, and which will make the only city under the absolute control of the United States government—Washington—a model city."

On their return from the White House the delegates listened to addresses at the Willard by William R. Wilcox, Marcus M. Marks, and James O'Connell.

SOCIALISTS' RED TAPE BINDS.

National Convention Struggles for Hours Over Committee.

Chicago, May 11.—Hopelessly wound up in red tape, redder than the decorations of their assembly hall, the Socialist national convention struggled for five hours this afternoon in an effort to elect committees to carry out the business of the convention. The actual business transacted at the meeting was the naming of the committee on platform and hearing the report of the credentials committee.

Fully one-fourth of the delegates are women. They are as active as the men, and never hesitate to demand the floor. Thus far, only two men have figured for the nomination. They are Eugene V. Debs and William D. Haywood.

PITTSBURGH MILLS REOPEN.

Large Number of Unemployed Again Put on the Pay Rolls.

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 11.—There was a pronounced resumption of Pittsburgh mills this morning, a greater number of men being put to work than on any Monday morning within the past three months.

Owing to a rush of orders for hoops and bands, the big Singer-Nimick Mills, which make this sort of iron products, started its mills in full to-day.

At the same time the Carnegie Steel Company put on 600 additional men at its Homestead plants, and started two others in Pittsburgh on full time. These mills had been closed for three weeks, and 1,300 men had not been working since.

PRESENTS FOR BRETT

District Guard Men Honor Retiring Adjutant.

GOING TO THE PHILIPPINES

Militia's Officer Participates in Public Exercises on White Lot When Men Give Him Chest of Silver and Beautiful Service Sabers—Soldiers Regretful of Taking Leave.

With eyes bedimmed with tears, his voice choking with emotion, and in the presence of thousands of cheering citizens, Col. Lloyd M. Brett, the retiring adjutant of the National Guard of the District of Columbia, publicly severed his connection with the Guard yesterday afternoon to take up the work of a regular soldier in the Philippine Islands.

Col. Brett's parting was made harder for him by the love and esteem the officers and men of the Guard have for him, and which they showed by their presenting him with several handsome gifts, including a chest of silver, punch bowl and glasses, and a handsome service saber.

Col. Brett then took command of the troops, and dress parade was held. This was followed by a review by the retiring adjutant.

At the conclusion of the drill, held on the White Lot, the commands were drawn up in street or hollow square formation and halted. The command to rest was then given.

It was after the drill was over that Col. Brett showed the deepest emotion, for it was at this juncture that the officers and men made their presentations of gifts.

Gen. Harries Is Spokesman.

Gen. Harries, as commanding officer of the guard, acted as spokesman, and in eloquent words paid a high tribute to Col. Brett as a man and a soldier. He spoke of the great work he had done for the guard, and how the entire people appreciated it. Gen. Harries then introduced Col. Urell. Col. Urell presented Col. Brett, on behalf of the officers of the National Guard of the District, with a handsome silver chest containing 162 pieces of silver. Gen. Harries then introduced Serg. Maj. Baker, of the First Regiment, on behalf of the enlisted men of the brigade, presented Col. Brett with a beautiful cut-glass punch bowl and glasses.

At 6 o'clock after the field had been cleared, the regimental trumpet sounded attention, and the guardsmen drew up in columns of fours and proceeded to their stations and halted. The trumpet then sounded fourts left, and the entire brigade swung into line, facing the north. The line extended east and west several hundred yards. At the conclusion of the brigade front formation, Gen. Harries took command, and put the men through the manual of arms and other formations.

Gets Service Saber.

Serg. C. W. Moore, Company G, First Regiment, on behalf of the members of his company, presented Adj. Brett with a handsome service saber. In responding to the presentation of the gifts, Col. Brett said his heart was deeply touched, and too full of appreciation for him to properly respond. He added he would ever cherish the memory of his term of duty with guard, and hoped he had been instrumental in making it one of the most efficient bodies of soldiers in the world, and that it was with deep regret that he was compelled to leave.

At the conclusion of the presentation of tokens, the organization marched to the armory, and was dismissed.

The troops participating were: First and Second Regiments of Infantry, First Separate Battalion, Naval Battalion, Signal Corps, Ambulance Corps, and a battery of Field Artillery.

LILY WHITE ROW.

Election of Negro Causes Fight in Louisiana Convention.

New Orleans, May 11.—The Lily White Republican convention which met here to-day endorsed Taft for President, but broke up in a row over the election of a negro delegate to the national convention, John N. Pharr, late Republican candidate for governor, and thirty-six other delegates left the convention under protest.

The negro delegate was A. B. Kennedy, receiver of the United States land office at New Orleans. The convention was a large one, with 512 delegates present. When the nomination of Kennedy was made Mr. Pharr made a strong speech against it. Ex-Gov. Warmouth spoke in favor of Kennedy. The convention voted 422 to 49 in favor of the negro delegate. Gov. Pharr then left the convention with his friends.

The delegates chosen were ex-Gov. H. Warmouth, Peat Bight, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Henry McCall, collector of customs at New Orleans, and A. B. Kennedy, receiver of the United States land office.

LIEUT. POILLON RETURNS.

New York, May 11.—Lieut. Arthur Poillon, U. S. A., one of the officers who was returning from the Philippines on the transport McClellan, and left that vessel at Malta, reached here to-day on the Atlantic Transport liner Minnetonka, from London. He belongs to the Fourteenth Cavalry, and had been in the Philippines five years.

Other passengers on the steamer were Lord Charles Kennedy, who is here to hunt along the Great Lakes, and Col. C. W. S. Hallett, of the British army, who is also on a hunting vacation.

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